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an IP interface overlaid over said second communications protocol at selective ones of said plurality of routers.

Claim 14 (Amended). A medium including a computer readable medium program means for transmitting an IP packet between a first IP device and a second IP device via a network including a plurality of routers running a second communications protocol different from said first and second IP devices, said computer readable medium comprising:

means for providing said second communications protocol; and

an IP interface overlaid over said second communications protocol at selective ones of said plurality of routers.

15 (Amended). The medium of claim 14, wherein a router <u>directly</u> connected to said first IP device comprises a local gateway and a router <u>directly</u> connected to said second IP device comprises a remote gateway, wherein the overland IP interface co-exists with said second communications protocol in said local gateway and said remote gateway, said overlaid IP interface comprises:

an IP tunnel interface comprising a network address for uniquely identifying the remote gateway in the second communications protocol, an interface number for reaching said network address, and an IP address for said second IP device to transmit an IP packet.

Please add the following new claims:

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22 (New). The network of claim 1 wherein the plurality of routers include first and second routers directly connected respectively to the first and second IP devices and at least a third router indirectly connected to at least one of the first and second IP devices.

23 (New). The system of claim 17, wherein the remote gateway and local gateway are respectively directly connected to said first and second IP devices.